



# Pit Bull Rescue Central

## Where Education Meets Rescue

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Local and State Government officials are passing dangerous and vicious dog laws based on a breed, not the deed! This is an act of prejudice and we can not allow laws to be passed based on what a dog looks like. Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) is happening around the world and responsible pet owners worldwide need to take notice and start fighting! The important thing to remember is that breeds change! In the 70's the German Shepherd was the number one target and in the 80's it was the Doberman. For those of you who don't currently own these breeds, read on - it could be your breed next! Recently, the Ministry of Bermuda banned 23 breeds including Mastiffs, Dogue de Bordeaux (Turner and Hooch), Bull Mastiffs, etc. Last summer, Italy passed bans and restrictions against 92 breeds. So if you're in Italy and wish to walk your Corgi or Border Collie you will need to have them muzzled while in public!

So some facts to keep in mind:

- Pit Bull is not a breed of dog, it's a term typically used to group 3 breeds of dog, the American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT), American Staffordshire Terrier (AMSTAFF) and the Staffordshire Terrier (STAFFIE).
- BSL has been proven to be ineffective. Miami Dade County, FL passed a ban on Pit Bulls in 1988. In 2002 there were an estimated 50,000 Pit Bulls living in the county.
- BSL does nothing to address the root of the problem - irresponsible dog ownership. It punishes responsible dog owners. Bad owners simply gravitate to other breeds. They hide the breeding and the dogs,, hence the animals do not receive proper care or socialization and may be sold underground. This profits the irresponsible breeders and owners who use the dogs for illegal, unethical purposes and/or are simply irresponsible neglectful pet owners.
- There are additional costs to taxpayers: extra manpower to handle the dogs and enforce the law, medical care for the dogs, space to hold the dogs, food, and court costs.
- There are 25 breeds that are commonly mistaken for Pit Bulls.
- The American Temperament Testing Society does temperament testing throughout the year at breed clubs and compiles the statistics. The 2002 statistics show APBTs, AMSTAFFs, and Rottweilers in the 82 percentile As compared to Bichon Frise 77%, Chihuahua 71%, Greyhound 81%, Lhasa Apso 71%. These test results are available at [www.atts.org](http://www.atts.org).
- There is a general misconception that dog aggression and human aggression are the same thing, this is WRONG! In the canine world there are several types of aggression such as fear based, food, territory, displaced, etc. Pit bulls were bred to fight dogs and it's true they can be dog aggressive, but they are NOT human aggressive. Historically, due to the nature of dog fighting any sign of human aggression was bred out of bloodlines. In dog fighting owners thoroughly check the other dog to make sure there isn't any poison, etc in that dogs fur, check the teeth, etc. Doing the "rounds" of battle the owners step into the ring while the dogs are fighting to separate and make sure the dogs are healthy enough to continue. If you use the same logic that dogs bred to fight dogs would be human aggressive, then wouldn't it be true to say that dogs bred to kill wolves would also be human aggressive? Yet, the Great Pyrenees, Anatolian Shepard, Tibetan Mastiff and Irish Wolfhound are never labeled Vicious?